**January 2017**

**Trusting God**

Foundation Scriptures

**Proverbs 3: 1 - 10**

Trust the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths (Benefits 16 -18).

***Trusting in an unseen God means having faith in His written word to man.***

***The Word of God is the Wisdom of God***

**Psalm 37: 1 – 5**

* Trust in the Lord
* Delight yourself in the Lord (to be soft or pliable)
* Commit your way unto the Lord (Roll your way upon the Lord; roll your cares upon Him).

Trust means: Be confident or sure, be bold – careless

Believe means: To have faith in or to put trust in

**Psalm 118: 6 – 8**

The Lord is on my side; I will not fear: what can man do to me.

It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man.

**Jeremiah 17: 5 - 10**

Cursed is the man that trusts in man and makes flesh his arm, and whose heart departs from the Lord.

* Don’t let your heart give way to natural understanding
* Keep (guard) your heart with all diligence (Proverbs 4: 23)

**1 Samuel 8 and 9.** (Saul was a taker not a giver)

Israel wanted a king to judge them, rejecting God. They wanted to conform to the world and be like the other nations. (1 Samuel 8: 19 -20 & 16: 6 - 7).

God chose a man of stature, not a man of heart. *For we walk by faith, not by sight*.

**Proverbs 29: 25** – The fear of man brings a snare. Trust in the Lord and be safe.

NLT – Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but trusting the Lord means safety.

**1 Corinthians 2: 4 – 5**

That your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

* Paul’s preaching was plain
* It was not intended to entice the heart but to convict it
* He relied on the power of the Holy Spirit
* He did this so that those hearing the gospel would not put their trust in human wisdom
* Religion never has and never will set a man free from the bondage of sin. By GRACE are we saved.

**Transfer your trust from people to God.**

* Natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him, (1 Corinthians 2: 14)
* That’s why we are warned not to walk in the counsel of the ungodly (Psalm 1)
* If we conform to the world (fashioned after their pattern), we will never trust God (Let **us** build a tower and let **us** make **us** a name – Genesis 11:4)
* That’s why the Bible warns us – “*Be not conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind (Romans 12: 2)*.”
* God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise (1 Corinthians 1: 27).

**Psalm 112: 1 – 8**

His heart is fixed, trusting in the Lord. His heart is established. Same meaning.

* We are “righteous” because of Jesus.
* That’s why our heart is “fixed”. Jesus can’t fail. His covenant with God can’t fail.
* You cannot fail if you stick with Love Himself (God is love).
* When you have done all to stand – STAND. (make firm, fix or establish)

**The attributes of God that would cause us to trust Him**

Exodus 34: 5 – 7

* Merciful (endures forever - Psalm 136)
* Gracious
* Longsuffering
* Abundant in goodness and truth
* Not a man that He should lie (Numbers 23:19)
* Unchanging as His word is unchanging (James 1:17)
* Operates by covenant. He tells us what He will do first. He then invites man to enter in to that agreement.
* He decrees something and it is so (Job 22:28)

Abraham

Why did Abraham trust God?

* Romans 4: 3 – Abraham believed God and it was counted unto him for righteousness (Genesis 15: 4 & Genesis 17: 1 -8).
* Trust (faith) activates the grace (Romans 4: 16)
* According to that which was spoken (Romans 4: 18).
* Not weak in faith, didn’t consider a dead body (weak means - feeble, sick).
* Staggered not through unbelief (stagger means–hesitate, doubt or waver)
* Fully persuaded – Imputed to him for righteousness.
* Same applied to us if we believe in Jesus.
* Justification by faith gives peace and access to this grace (Romans 5:1-2)
* We can never trust God through the works of the law
* That requires ‘self-righteous’ effort on our part
* Trusting God requires ‘*Right Believing’*.
* Believing What? Believing what God has said. “*According to that which was spoken”.*

**Three things that can hinder our trusting in God:**

* Reasoning
* Cares and worries
* Doubting God’s Word

**Reasoning**

Moses

Exodus 3 & 4

* Moses protested to God
* Identity crisis. No idea of his authority (Exodus 3: 11)
* Moses past was limiting his future (Exodus 4: 1 – Refer Exodus 2: 14)
  + 2 Corinthians 5: 17
  + Galatians 2:20
  + Philippians 3: 13 – 14
  + Luke 5: 8 – 10 – depart from me Lord I am a sinful man. Jesus response was – FEAR NOT. Peter’s sinful past did not disqualify him, nor will yours. It has been nailed to the cross.
* Moses was looking at his limited ability and not God’s unlimited ability (Exodus 4: 10)
* Send someone else (Exodus 4: 13)
* He wasn’t going alone (God Himself)
* Support from his brother Aaron also.

**Jeremiah 1: 5 - 6**

When Jeremiah was called of God, he protested in a similar manner.

* Do we feel too young or inadequate?
* Timothy was encouraged by Paul to ‘stir up the gift of God within him’ and to let no man despise his youth (1 Timothy 4: 12 & 2 Timothy 1:6)
* My grace is sufficient for you
* Feed the multitudes, He told His disciples – “Bring what you have to me”.

2 Corinthians 10: 5 (Cast down imaginations or “r*easoning”*)

***Never change the Word of God to fit your lifestyle. Instead, renew your mind and change your lifestyle to fit the Word.***

**Cares / Worry**

Mark 4: 29

Choke the word and it ***becomes*** unfruitful (choke means to strangle completely, to drown or to crowd).

Philippians 4: 6 – 8

* Don’t be anxious
* Pray and give thanks
* Worry shall be replaced with the peace of God
* To keep your hearts and minds (keep - to garrison or guard, a watchman).

1 Peter 5: 6 – 7 – Cast your cares (Cast means to throw upon)

Matthew 6: 25 – 34 (AMP)

* Why take thought
* v27 – worry is not healthy. Does you no physical good.
* Consider the lilies of the field - neither toil or spin
  + *Consider* - means to learn thoroughly or note carefully
  + *Toil* - means to work hard, to labour or to be wearied.
* Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Jesus) and all these things ***shall*** be added unto you.

Martha – Luke 10: 38 – 42

* Martha was careful (*anxious or take thought*) and troubled (*disturbed*) about many things.
* Mary chose that good part – ***To sit at Jesus feet and hear his word***.

**Doubting God’s Word**

Why do we at times struggle with believing God’s word?

* Personal experience
  + Your idea of God’s timing
  + Not recognising periods of growth and training
* Ignorance or a lack of understanding of God’s word
  + If it be His will
  + This may be intended to teach me something
  + It was written by men, so how can it be trusted (Jesus did) – John 5: 46 – 47. If you don’t believe the writing of Moses, you won’t believe me.
  + Having a zeal for God without revelation of truth (Romans 10: 2)
* Opinions of others
  + Living by sight and not by faith (Mark 5: 38 – 40). They mocked and laughed at Jesus when He did not follow their ‘world view’.
* Religious traditions of men
  + Matthew 15: 1 – 6. (NLT) They make the word of God of no effect
  + Colossians 2: 8 - Don’t be spoiled (seduced) by traditions of men.
* Deception
  + Genesis 3: 1 (Did God really say?).

**Solution (Faith in God)**

Romans 10: 17

So then, faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

* Taken in context, Chapter 10 is referring to saving faith (v13 – 17)
  + *Send*
  + *Preach*
  + *Hear*
  + *Believe*
  + *Call upon the Lord*
* However, this principle is evident throughout the Bible.
* People heard about Jesus, believed and came to him for deliverance.
* Hearing has the same meaning as – Fame, report, rumour and ear.

Observing signs and miracles won’t of themselves produce faith. They will produce wonder and amazement.

* Luke 5: 17 & 26
* Acts 3: 10

Signs and wonders follow the preached word.

Mark 16: 20

“And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with *them* and confirming the word with signs following.”

Trials and tribulation don’t produce faith, otherwise we’d all be faith giants.

Faith resides in the heart of man (the spirit) and is fed by the Word of God.

To every believer has been given “*The measure of faith*” (Romans 12: 2 - 3).

ARE YOU RUNNING ON EMPTY? (no faith in the tank)

Hebrews 3: 17 – 19 & 4: 1 – 2

The word preached did not profit them, not being *mixed with faith* in them that heard it.

* Preached in this verse is the same meaning as (Hearing - Romans 10: 17)
* Profit means – to benefit, advantage or prevail
* Mixed means – to combine, assimilate or temper together (unite).
* Rest comes from believing

Faith connects us to the grace of God. That is where the enabling power of God resides. That’s why His grace is sufficient for us in any situation.

There has to be a ‘connection’ or ‘uniting’ before there can be a flow.

Are you believing what you are hearing, and acting on that truth?

Matthew 8 – The centurion believed the words of Jesus (great faith).

Mark 6 – Those close to Him were offended and no one made a faith demand on Jesus because of their unbelief. There was no connecting or uniting to the grace that was on Jesus.